

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☐

Property Name: Leonard Wood Avenue German POW Bridge, Ft. Meade Inventory Number: AA-2365  
Address: Leonard Wood Avenue City: Fort George G. Meade Zip Code: 20755-5115  
County: Anne Arundel USGS Topographic Map: Odenton, MD  
Owner: Fort George G. Meade Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes  
Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: Fort Meade Cultural Resource Management Plan Update Agency: U.S. Army  
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

*If the property is within a district*

District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Fort Meade Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan, Dec. 2006

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The German POW-constructed Leonard Wood Avenue bridge is significant for its contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The area of significance is U.S. Military history, and the period of significance is 1946, the date of its construction. The stone bridge at Fort Meade is historically significant for its association with the German POW's in Maryland during World War II. The bridge is significant as one of only three known structures (bridges) built by POW labor on a military installation in Maryland during the war.

A portion of the southwestern portion of Fort Meade was utilized as a prisoner of war (POW) camp during the Second World War. The facilities were used to house both Italian and German POWs. The POW facilities consisted of temporary wood frame buildings and tents. The first shipment of POWs, consisting of 1,632 Italian and 58 German soldiers arrived at Fort Meade in September of 1943. During the Second World War POWs were spread across 511 branch camps in 44 states across the nation. The German POW population in the United States reached a peak of 425,000 in May and June 1945.

In May of 1944 the Fort Meade POW camp was expanded to house 2,000 German POWs. The camp was divided into three sections, Enlisted Men's, Anti-Nazi, and Officer's Camps. In addition to the main camp at Fort Meade there were an additional 18 branch/work camps located in Maryland. In August of 1945 the German POW population reached a peak of

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Jonathan Saps  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

1/24/08  
Date

Bluntz  
Reviewer, NR Program

1/28/08  
Date

200704180

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

AA-2365

9,300 soldiers in Maryland. Nationwide many of the POWs were employed during the war. They were primarily used in agriculture and manufacturing to replace men serving in the military. In Maryland POWs were typically employed in agricultural, pulp wood, and industrial activities. In 1944 the German POWs began operating the post laundry on Fort Meade.

At Fort Meade German POWs were also utilized in the construction of three bridges on the installation. The bridges are located at stream crossings across the Franklin Branch Creek. The bridges are located on Llewellyn, Redwood, and Leonard Wood Avenues. There is also oral history that indicates the POWs may have been involved in conducting maintenance and repair work in the residences on Fort Meade.

Since the POWs were primarily involved with agricultural production there are virtually no physical reminders of their presence in Maryland. The facilities associated with the POW camp have all been removed. The bridges are among the few tangible reminders of the POW presence at Fort Meade and in Maryland during World War II. The bridges are the only known structures built on a military installation in Maryland by POW labor. The only other known structure in Maryland built by POW labor is the entrance gate to a satellite POW camp located in Germantown, Maryland. Today the stone gate serves as the entrance to the Emory Grove Center near Gaithersburg, Maryland. The bridges at Fort Meade were all designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (M:20-8)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, MD  
21203-1715

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Prepared: December 2006  
\_\_\_\_\_

Leonard Wood Avenue Bridge  
MIHP #: AA 2365  
Fort George G. Meade  
1946  
Public Access

#### Capsule Summary

The Leonard Wood Avenue Bridge is the least decorative of the three bridges. This flat, two laned concrete bridge was constructed in 1946. The bridge itself is 41' 10" wide at its narrowest portion (the center of its span), and is 59' 2" wide at its widest portion (from wing wall to wing wall). The bridge is 40' 2" long. The side walls are made of cinder block and are six courses high and are finished with a concrete capstone. The side walls are stepped. Three ovate conduits carry the water under the bridge. As on the other two bridges, there is an eroded sandstone memorial plaque on the bridge that reads: *Hoc opus captivi germanici perfecerunt AD MCMXLVI*

Three bridges built by German POWs were evaluated for NRHP eligibility under Criterion A, for "events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." The level of significance was considered at the local and state level. The Area of Significance considered was military history, and the period of significance is 1944 to 1946, the dates of construction.

The three stone bridges at Fort Meade are historically significant for their association with the German POWs in Maryland during World War II. The bridges are significant as the only known structures built by POW labor on a military installation in Maryland during the war. The bridges are all recommended as being eligible for listing in the NRHP.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-2365

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Leonard Wood Avenue German Prisoner of War (POW) Bridge

other

### 2. Location

street and number Leonard Wood Avenue not for publication

city, town Fort George G. Meade vicinity

county Anne Arundel

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Fort George G. Meade

street and number telephone 301-677-9855

city, town Fort Meade state MD zip code 20755-5115

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber folio

city, town tax map tax parcel tax ID number

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☒ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. AA-2365

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Leonard Wood Avenue Bridge is the least decorative of the three bridges constructed at Fort Meade by German POWs. This bridge was constructed in 1946. It is flat, two lanes wide, with a concrete span. The bridge is 41' 10" wide and 59' 2" wide from the end of each wing wall. The bridge is 40' 2" long. The side walls are made of cinder block and are six courses high, finished with a concrete capstone. The side walls are stepped. Three ovate conduits carry the water under the bridge. There is an eroded sandstone memorial plaque on the bridge that reads:

*Hoc Opus Captivi  
Germanici Perfecterunt  
AD MCMLVI*

The rough translation of the Latin for this inscription reads:

"The hard work of German prisoners built this"

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. AA-2365

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

**Specific dates** 1944 - 1946 **Architect/Builder** German Prisoners of War

**Construction dates** 1946

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. AA-2365

*Draft Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan*  
Fort George G. Meade,  
Anne Arundel County, Maryland  
December 2006

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 0.1  
Acreage of historical setting 5,506 (acreage of Ft. Meade)  
Quadrangle name Laurel, MD Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The bridge is located along Leonard Wood Avenue at Fort George G. Meade, MD.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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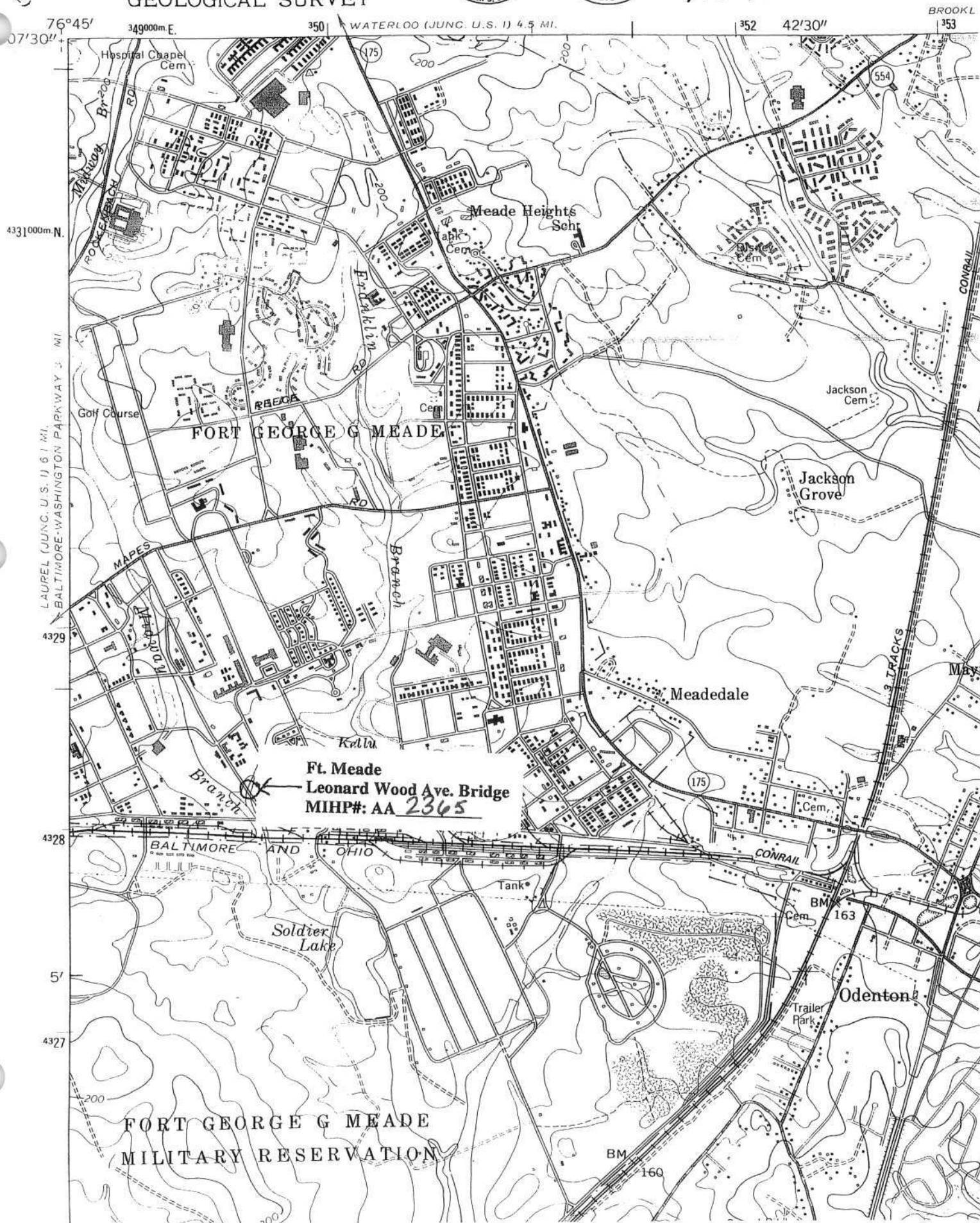
name/title			
organization	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	date	December 2006
street & number	P.O. Box 1715	telephone	410-962-4995
city or town	Baltimore	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

ODENTON QUAD  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES





1. AA 2365
2. LEONARD WOOD AVENUE BRIDGE, FORT MEADE
3. ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND
4. U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
5. NOVEMBER 2005
6. USACE, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
7. VIEW FACING NORTH
8. 10F2

003 NHHH 031 20.02.07 RTT2 1100H



1. AA 2368
2. LEONARD WOOD AVENUE BRIDGE, FORT MEADE
3. ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND
4. U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
5. NOVEMBER 2005
6. USACE, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
7. VIEW FACING SOUTHEAST
8. 20F 2

003 NNNH 029 20.02.07 RITZ HIGH